

THE

ABC'S
OF
Missouri

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By

The Missouri History Class of
Jefferson City Academic Center
Jefferson City Public School

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Jefferson City, Missouri
Spring 2010



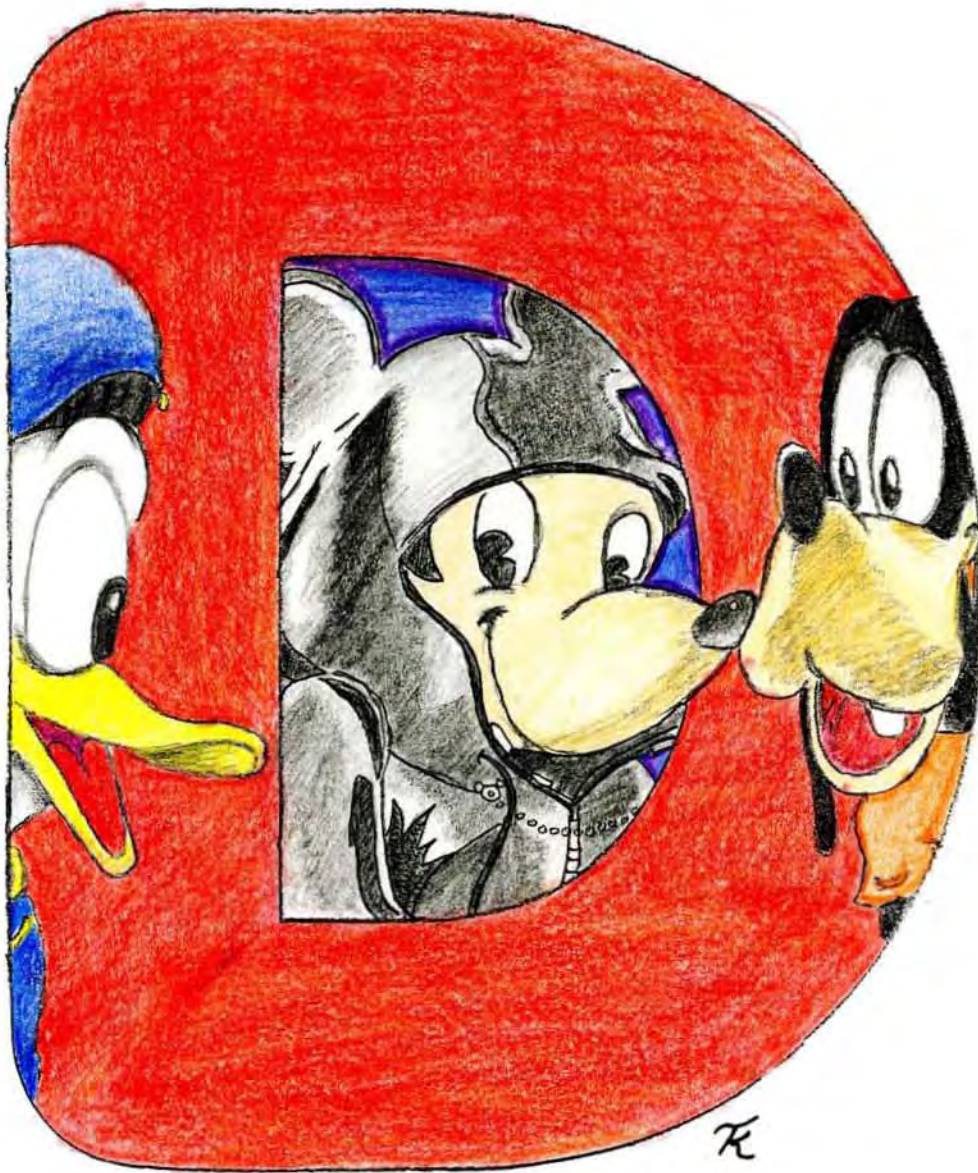
A is for Arrow Rock. Arrow Rock is a small river town, which became a stopping place for the travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. Many travelers stayed at the Arrow Rock Tavern, which provided meals and shelter.



B is for the Butterfield Overland Mail Company. The Butterfield Overland Mail Company was started by William B. Russell, Alexander Major, and W.B. Waddle. The company carried guns, plows, machinery, food products, passengers, and many other things to California. The trip would take 25 days to get from Missouri to California. Before these stagecoaches, the only way you could get or send supplies to California was to sail around South America. At the height of the company's success it employed 3,000 wagons, 4,000 people, and 40,000 oxen.



C is for George Washington Carver, who became famous for his research with plants like sweet potatoes, peanuts, and other foods. Carver was born on a farm near Diamond, Missouri. During the last year of the Civil War, his mother, Mary, who was a slave owned by Moses and Susan Carver, was kidnapped. Susan Carver taught George Washington Carver how to read and write. He attended Simpson College in Iowa and after college he became a scientist/teacher.



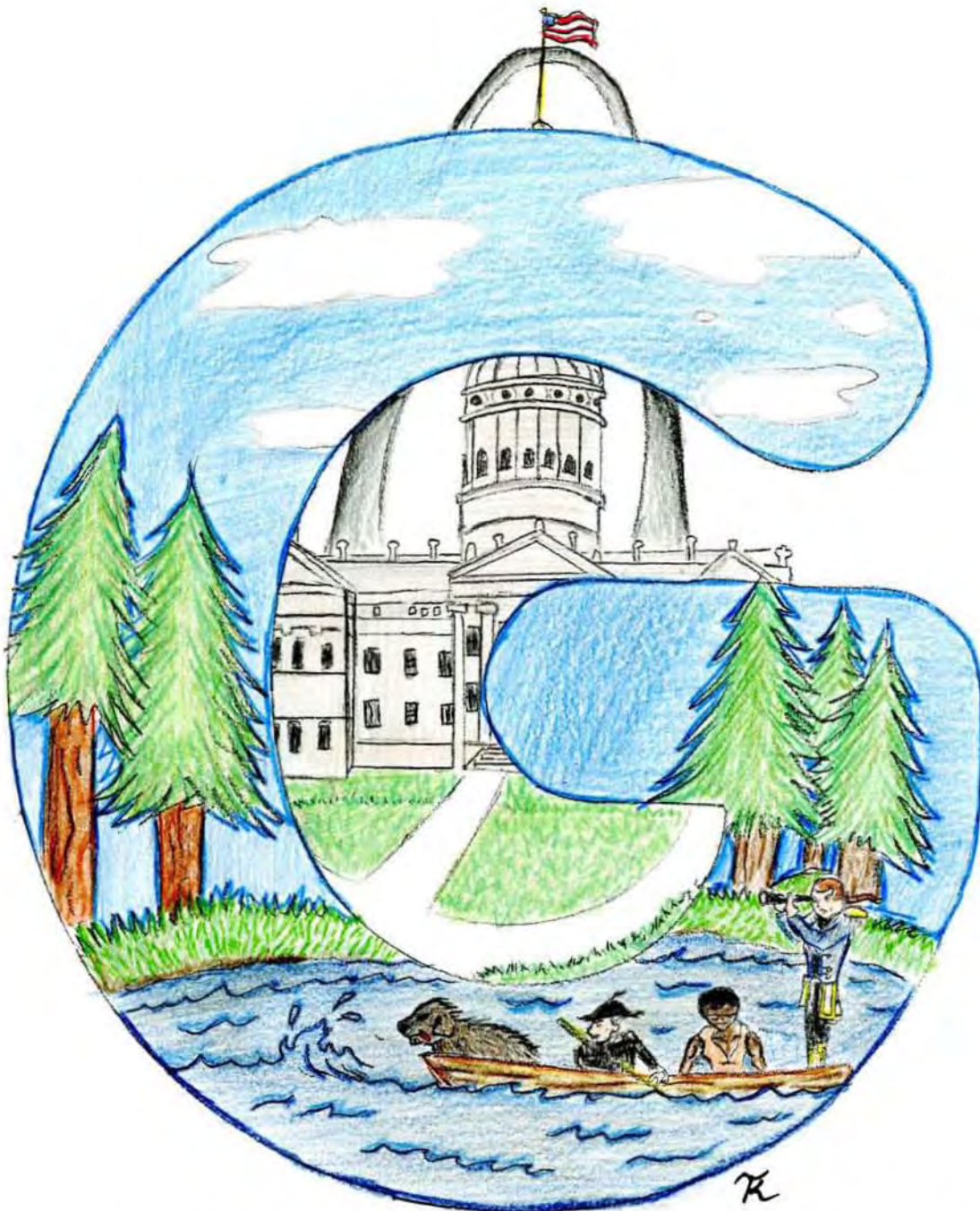
D is for Walt Disney. Everyone knows Walt Disney for his well known characters such as Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. Some people call him the "Master of Make Believe". Though Disney was not born in Missouri, he was raised in Marceline, Missouri and later lived in Kansas City, Missouri. He made his first cartoon film in Kansas City, Missouri. One of the cartoons he produced was "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". He was also the original voice of Mickey Mouse.



E is for the Emancipation Monument. The Emancipation Monument is a monument built to honor President Abraham Lincoln for freeing the slaves. Archer Alexander was a slave who ran away from his Master. During his escape, he warned Union troops they were about to be attacked. Alexander fled to St. Louis, Missouri, where he was given refuge and a job by Minister William Greenleaf Eliot. After the war, Alexander worked to have the statue built. Hundreds of former slaves contributed money to pay for the statue. It was completed in 1876 and still stands in Lincoln Park in Washington, D.C. The statue shows Abraham Lincoln and a newly freed slave holding a broken chain. The sculptor used Archer Alexander as his model for the free slave depicted in the statue.



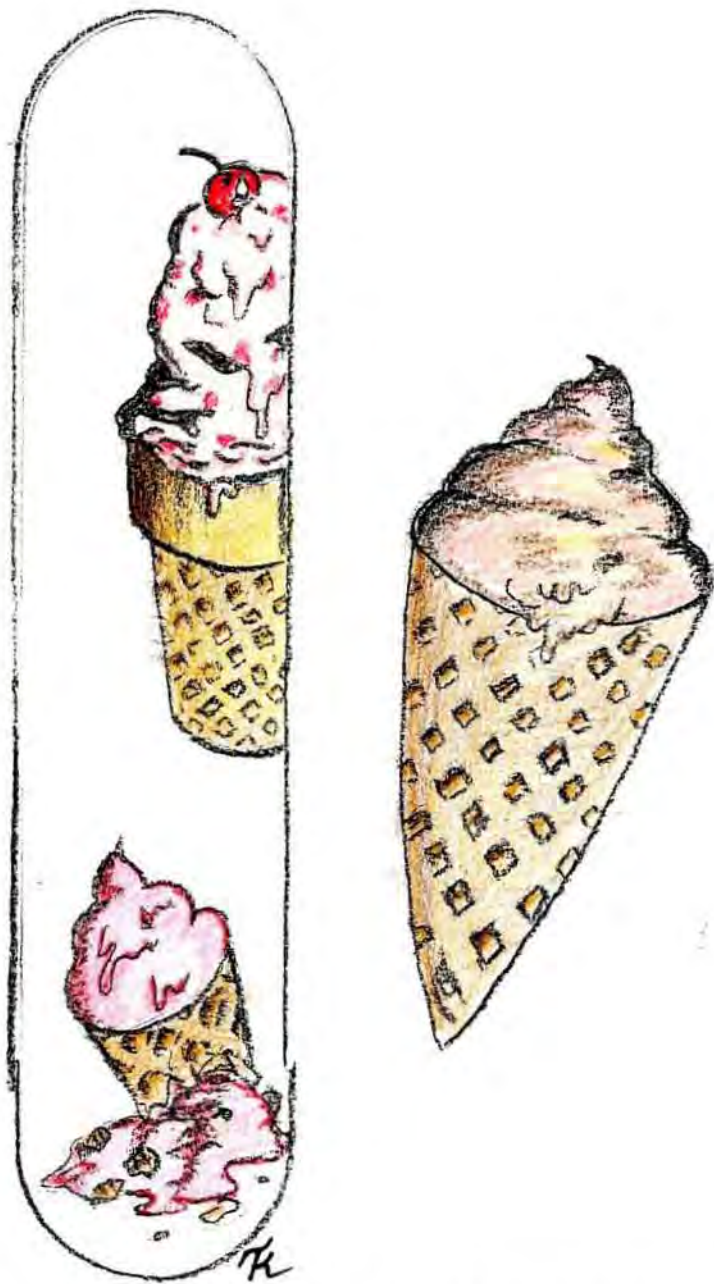
F is for Field. Eugene Field is a famous American writer best known for his children's poetry and humorous essays. Field was born in St. Louis, Missouri. Two of his most well known children's poems are "Little Boy Blue" and "Wynken, Blynken and Nod".



G is for the Gateway Arch. The Arch is the tallest monument in the United States, standing at 630 feet tall and weighing 17,246 tons. The Arch cost 13 million dollars to build. It is St. Louis' best known landmark and attracts many tourists. The Gateway Arch took almost three years to construct. Each year a million visitors ride the tram to the top of the Arch.



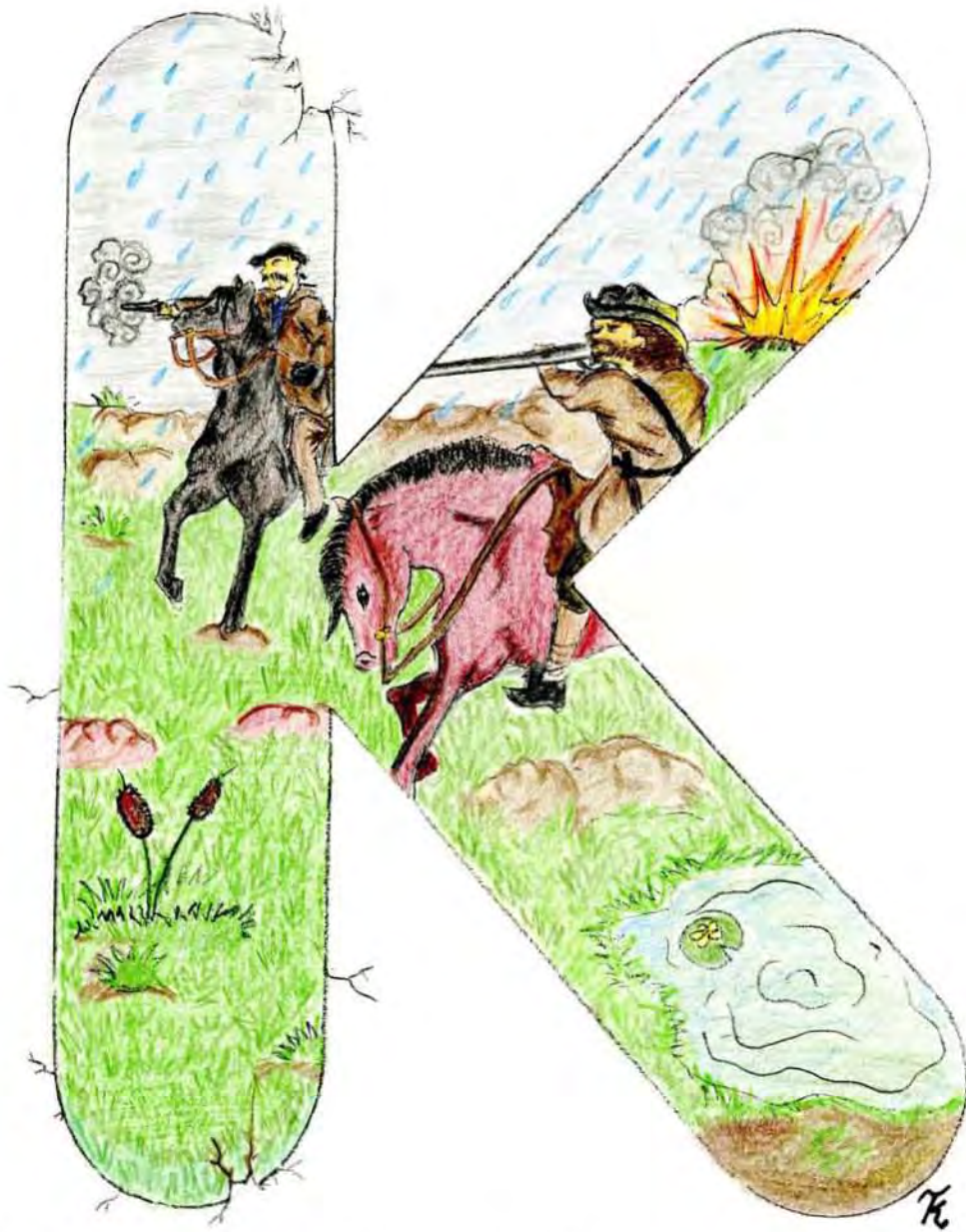
H is for Harry S. Truman. Truman was born in 1884. He served as the 33rd President of the United States, from 1945 to 1952. Truman is remembered as the man from Independence, Missouri. Truman also ended WWII and witnessed the creation of the United Nations. His hope was to preserve peace. You can visit the Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri.



I is for Ice cream cone. The ice cream cone was invented at the St. Louis World's fair in 1904. It was created by Ernest Hamwi, who was running an ice cream booth and ran out of dishes for ice cream. Hamwi's ice cream booth was near a waffle booth. He decided to use rolled up waffles to serve his ice cream, creating the world famous ice cream cone.



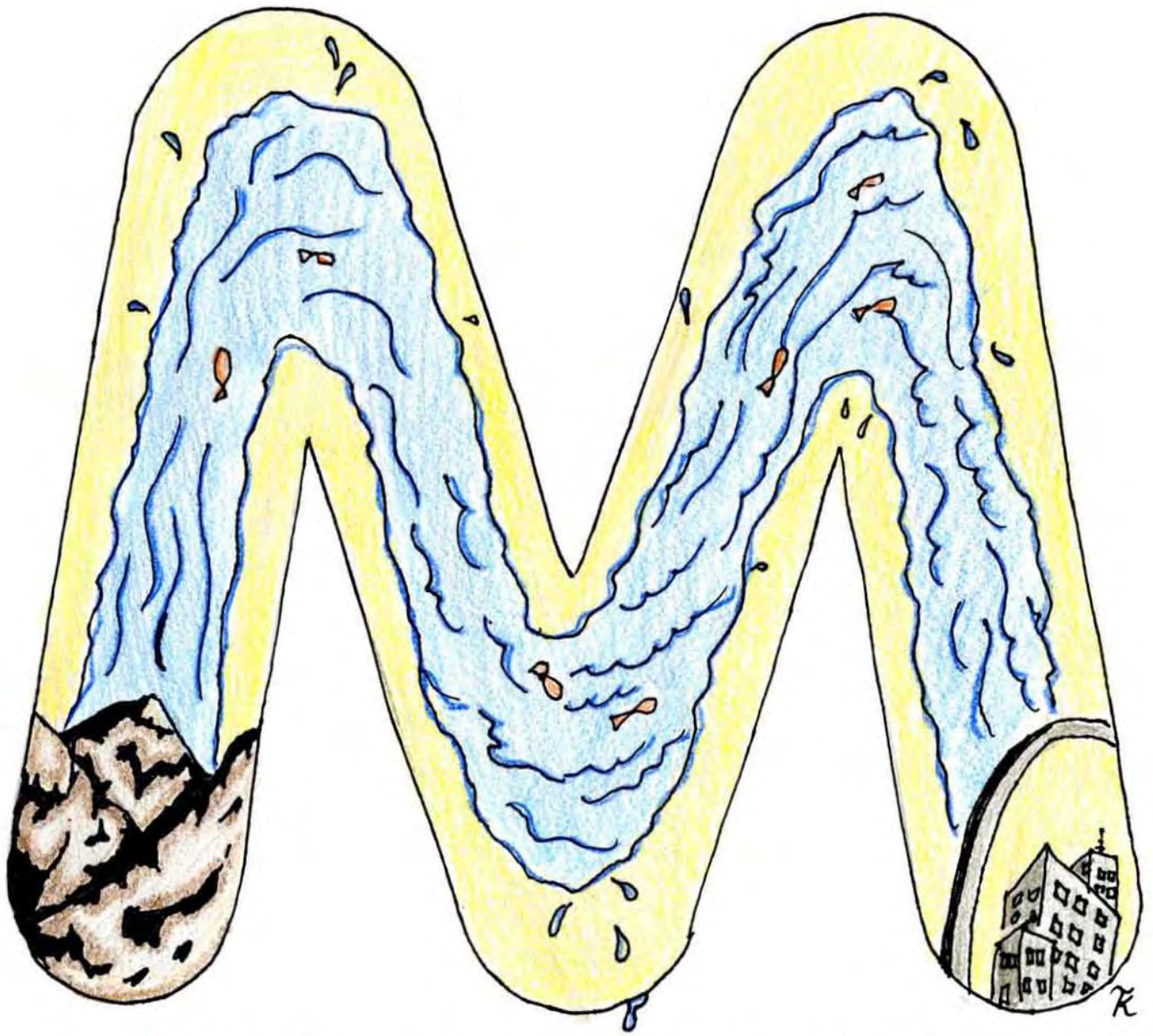
J is for Jefferson City. Jefferson City is the capital city of Missouri and the county seat of Cole county. Jefferson City was named after Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States.



K is for the Kansas Border War. The Kansas Border War or "Bleeding Kansas" was a conflict over slavery. Missourians would cross the border into Kansas attacking settlers and burning their homes for resisting slavery. Kansas responded by crossing the border into Missouri and killing slave owners and destroying their property. Many people died in these conflicts, which was also a contributing factor leading to the American Civil War.



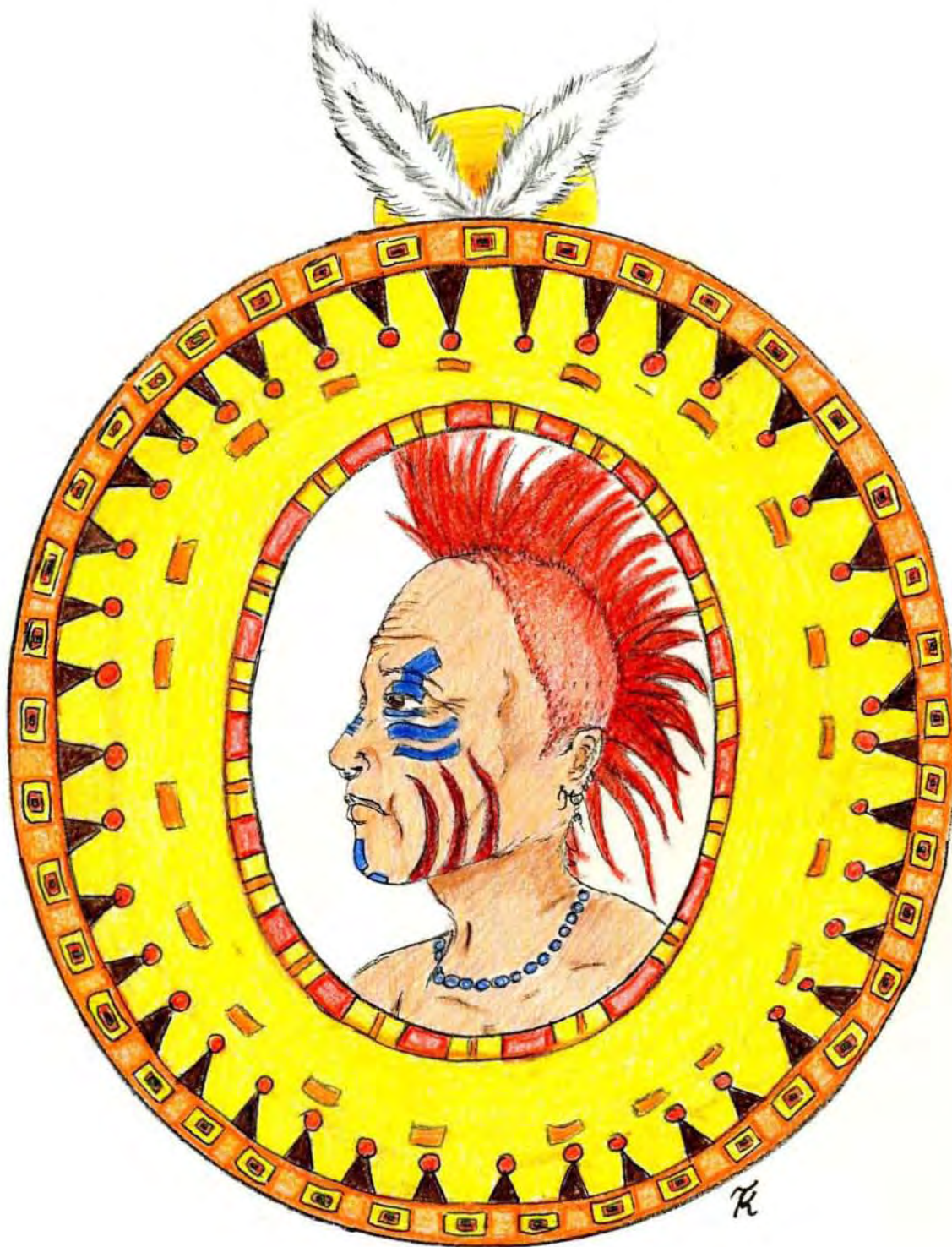
L is for Lincoln University. Lincoln University was established by black soldiers from the 62nd and 65th Regiments. The soldiers raised money to start a school for black students. They pledged, as much as \$200 dollars each to help establish the school. Lincoln University was established in 1866, two years after the Civil War.



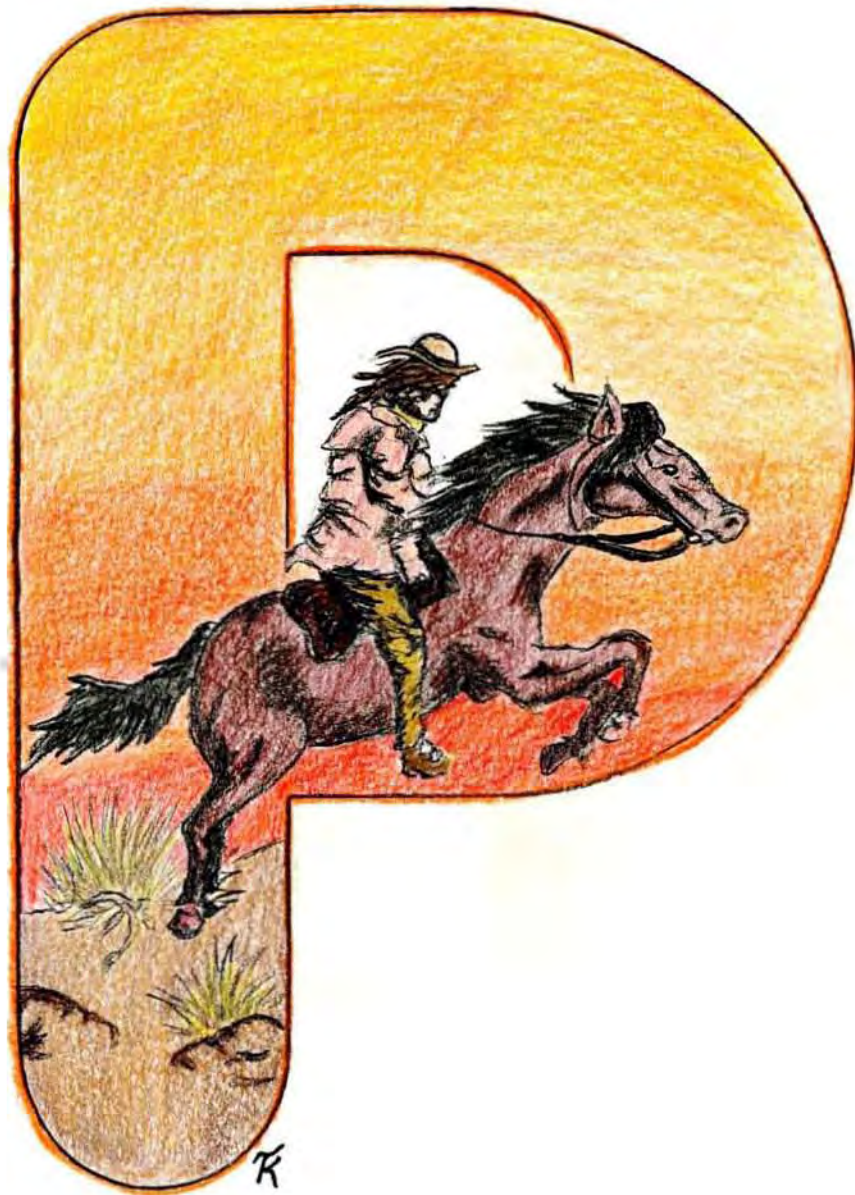
M is for the Missouri River. The Missouri River begins in the Rocky Mountains and continues 2,315 miles east to St. Louis, Missouri. It has been nicknamed "BIG MUDDY" because of the amount of silt it carries. Lewis and Clark also traveled on the Missouri River on their expedition.



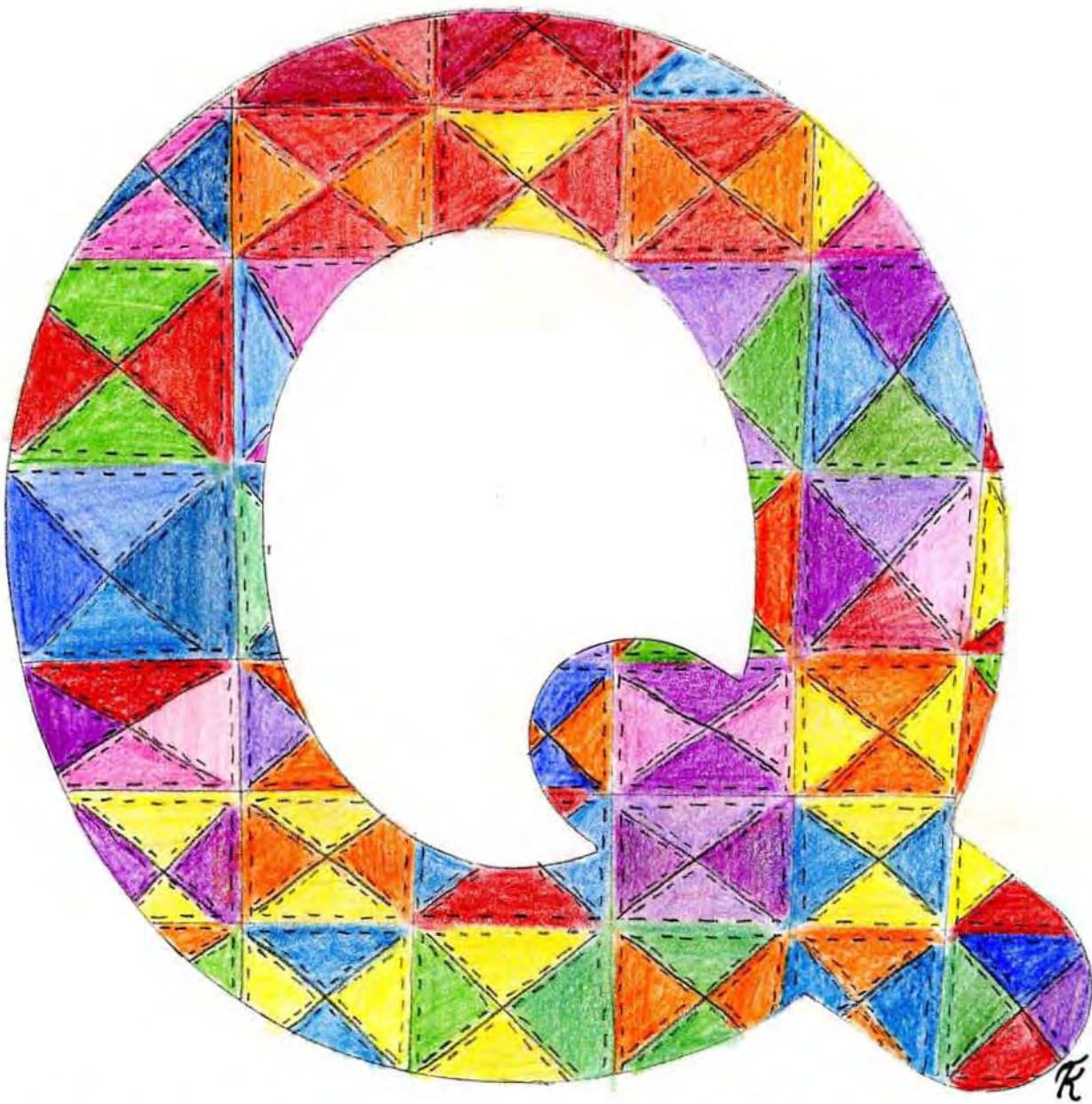
N is for the Negro League Baseball Museum. The Negro League Baseball Museum was founded in 1990 in Kansas City, Missouri by a group of former Negro League members. The Negro League Baseball Museum is a wonderful place to explore the legends of baseball. Exhibits include uniforms worn by League members.



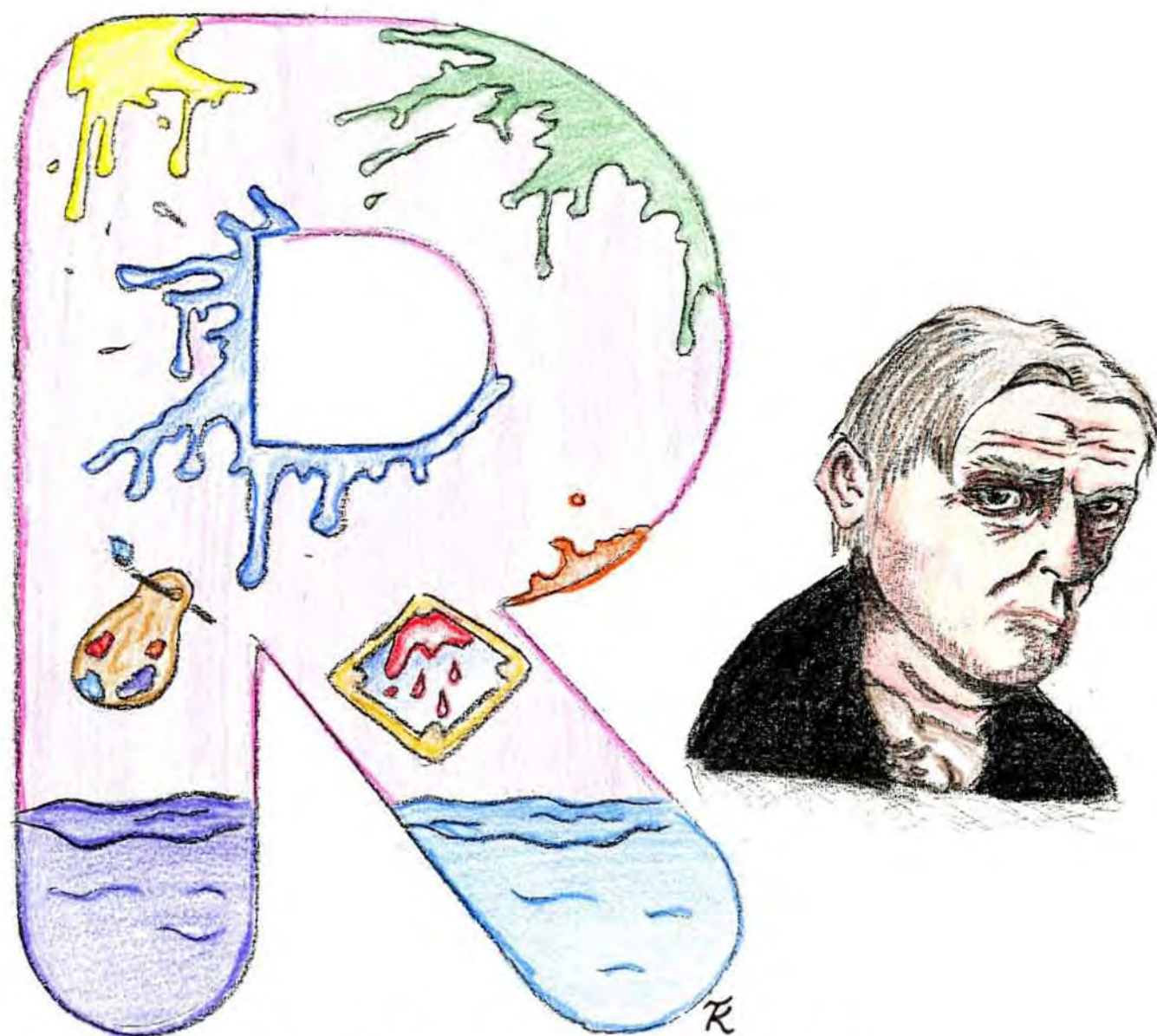
O is for the Osage Indians. The Osage Indians were the largest and most powerful Indian tribe in Missouri. They shaved their heads and painted their faces. They were also hunters and warriors.



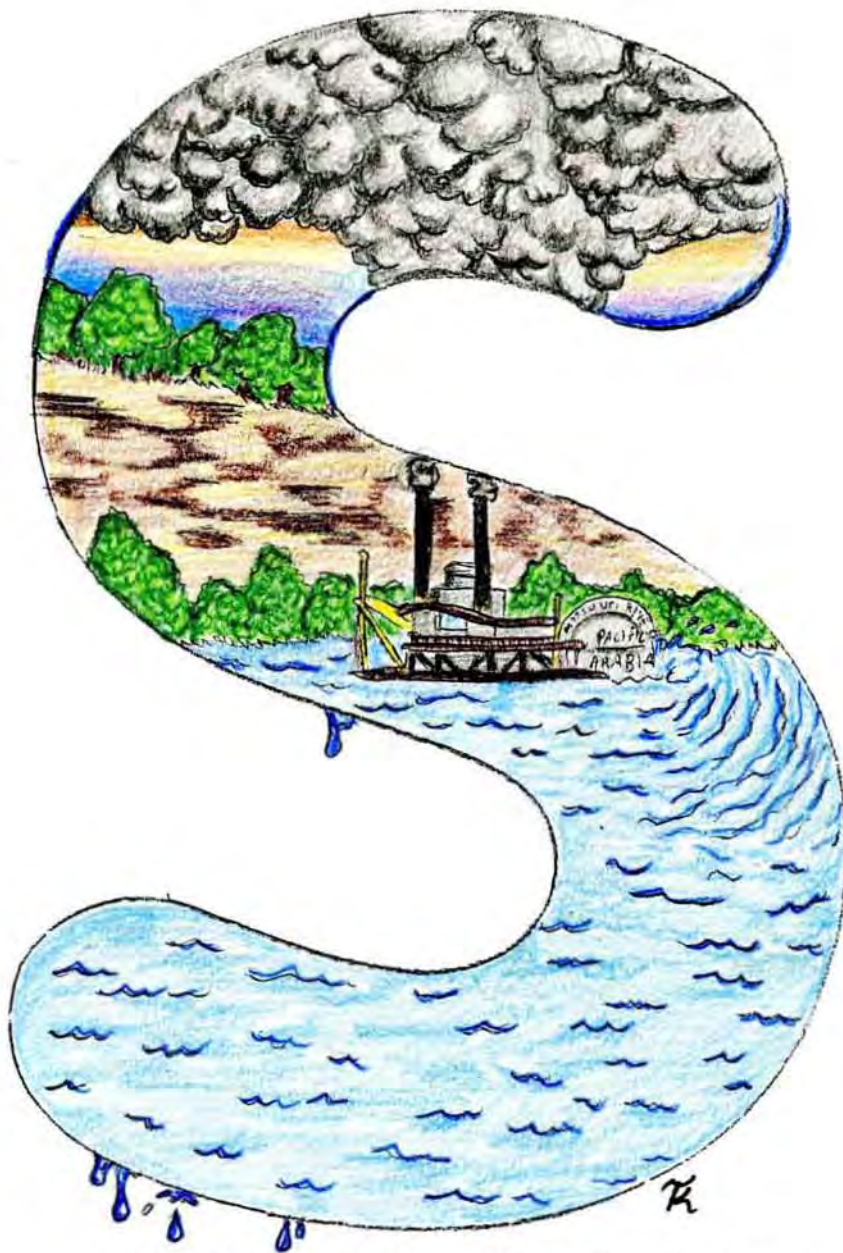
P is for the Pony Express. The Pony Express was started by the Russell, Majors, and Waddell Company, to deliver mail more quickly from Missouri to California. Only skilled riders could take this job. The riders could weigh no more than 125 pounds. It usually took the riders ten days to deliver the mail over the roughly 2,000 mile trail from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California.



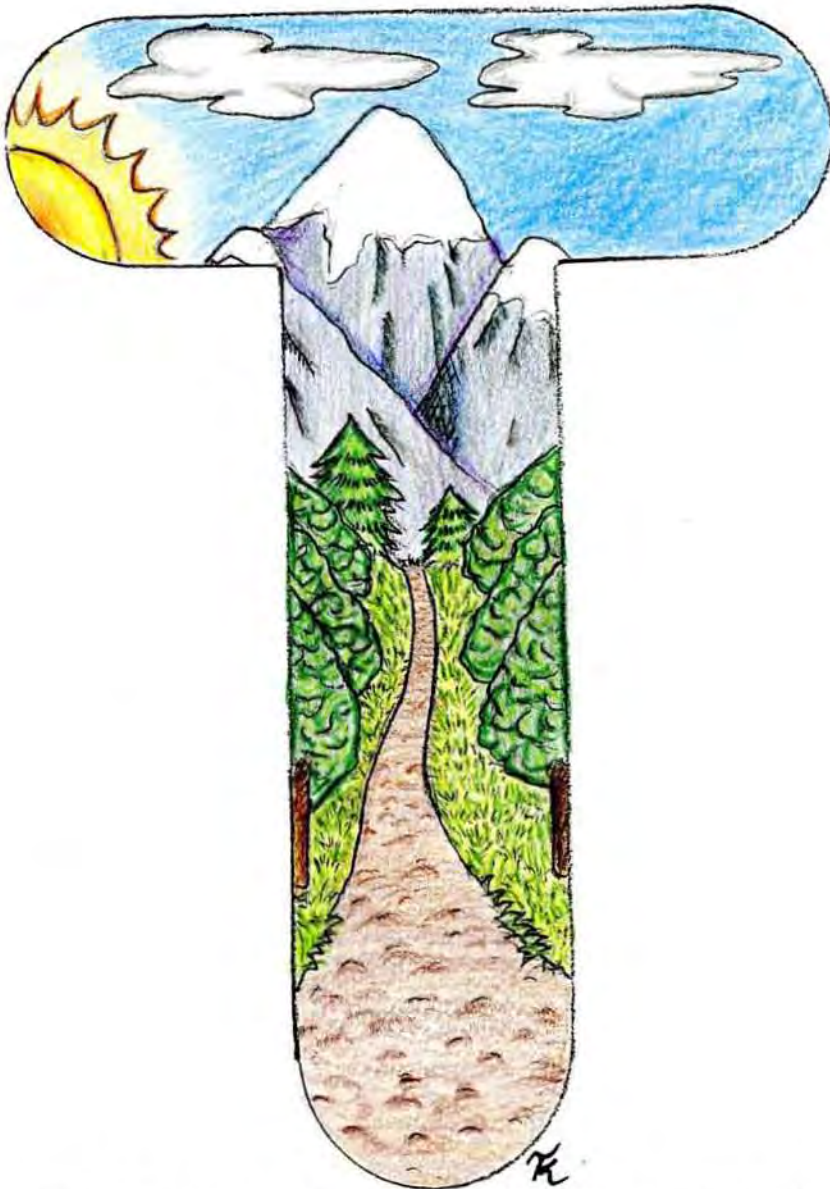
Q is for the Quilting Bee. Quilting bees were first started to bring neighbors together for conversation and to complete a task. Normally making a quilt would take many days, weeks, or even months for one person. Women taking part in a quilting bee could make a quilt in a matter of days. Quilts were a piece of early Missouri folk art that were put to practical use in everyday life.



R is for Charles Marion Russell. Russell was an American painter and sculptor who grew up in Missouri. He was one of the two greatest and most popular painters of the American west. Russell did the mural of Lewis and Clark meeting the Flathead Indians which hangs in the Montana State Capitol.



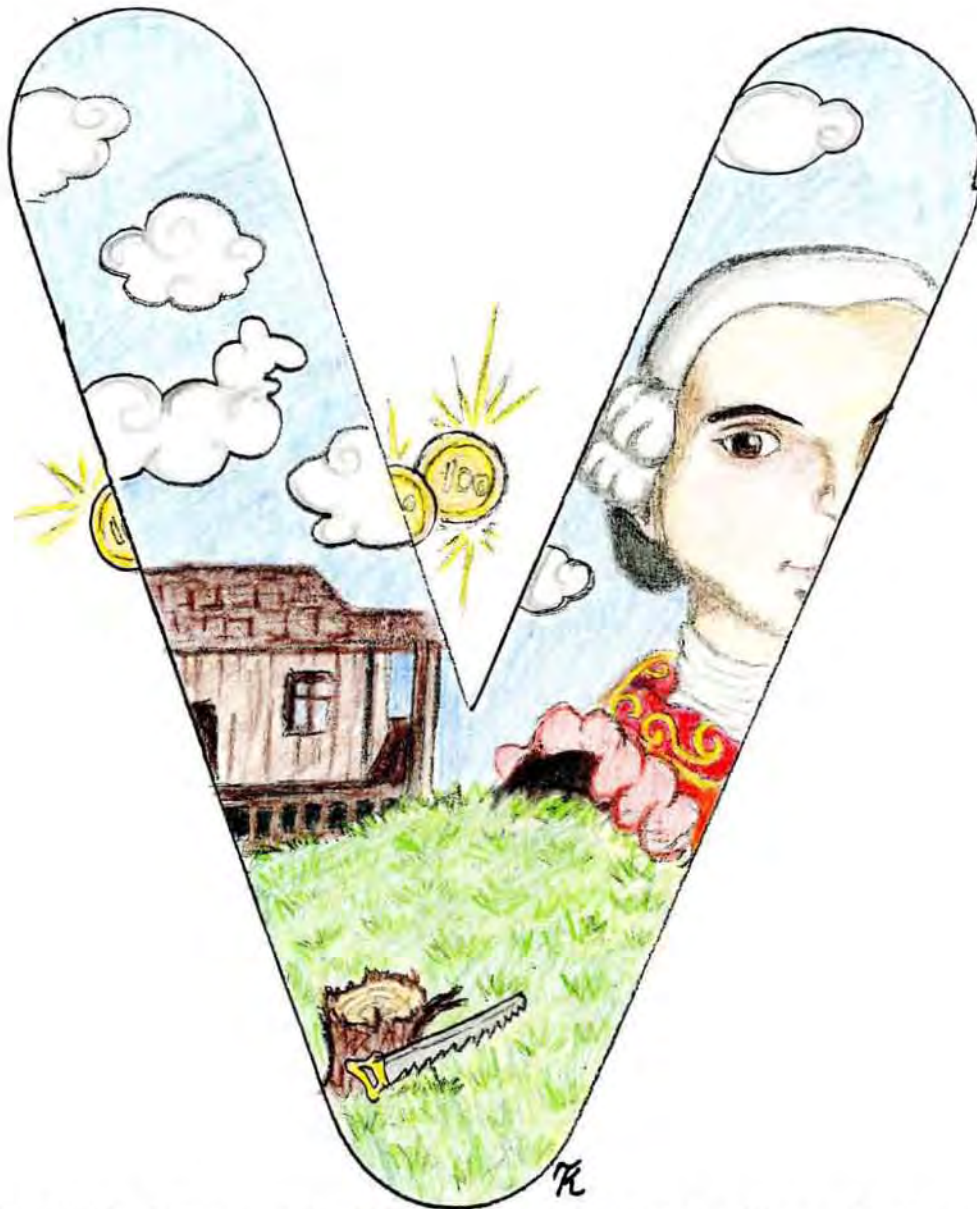
S is for steamboat. Steamboats were very important to Missouri because they could carry people and cargo. They also were faster than the keelboat. Along with the people, steamboats hauled wheat, livestock, cotton, hemp, and lead. They traveled on the two main rivers, the Missouri and the Mississippi. One of the first steamboats, the Arabia, hit a tree that was hidden under the water near Parkville, Missouri. The Arabia sunk losing all its cargo, though all of the passengers were rescued.



T is for Taum Sauk Mountain. Taum Sauk Mountain is the tallest peak in Missouri. Taum Sauk Mountain reaches a height of 1,772 feet above sea level. There are 7,448 acres of untamed and unspoiled land that surrounds the park. This area promises hikers a place of solitude and wilderness, which is hard to find today.



U is for the USS Missouri. The USS Missouri is a battleship and it took 175 tons of blueprint paper to design. The ship was built in three years, clocking 3 million man-days. The "Mighty Mo", as it is called, is five feet longer and 18 feet wider than the Titanic. If you could stand the ship on end, it would be 332 feet taller than the Washington Monument. The nine, 16-inch guns are the "Mighty Mo's" feature trademark. It can fire a 2,700-pound shell 23 miles in 50 seconds with pinpoint accuracy.



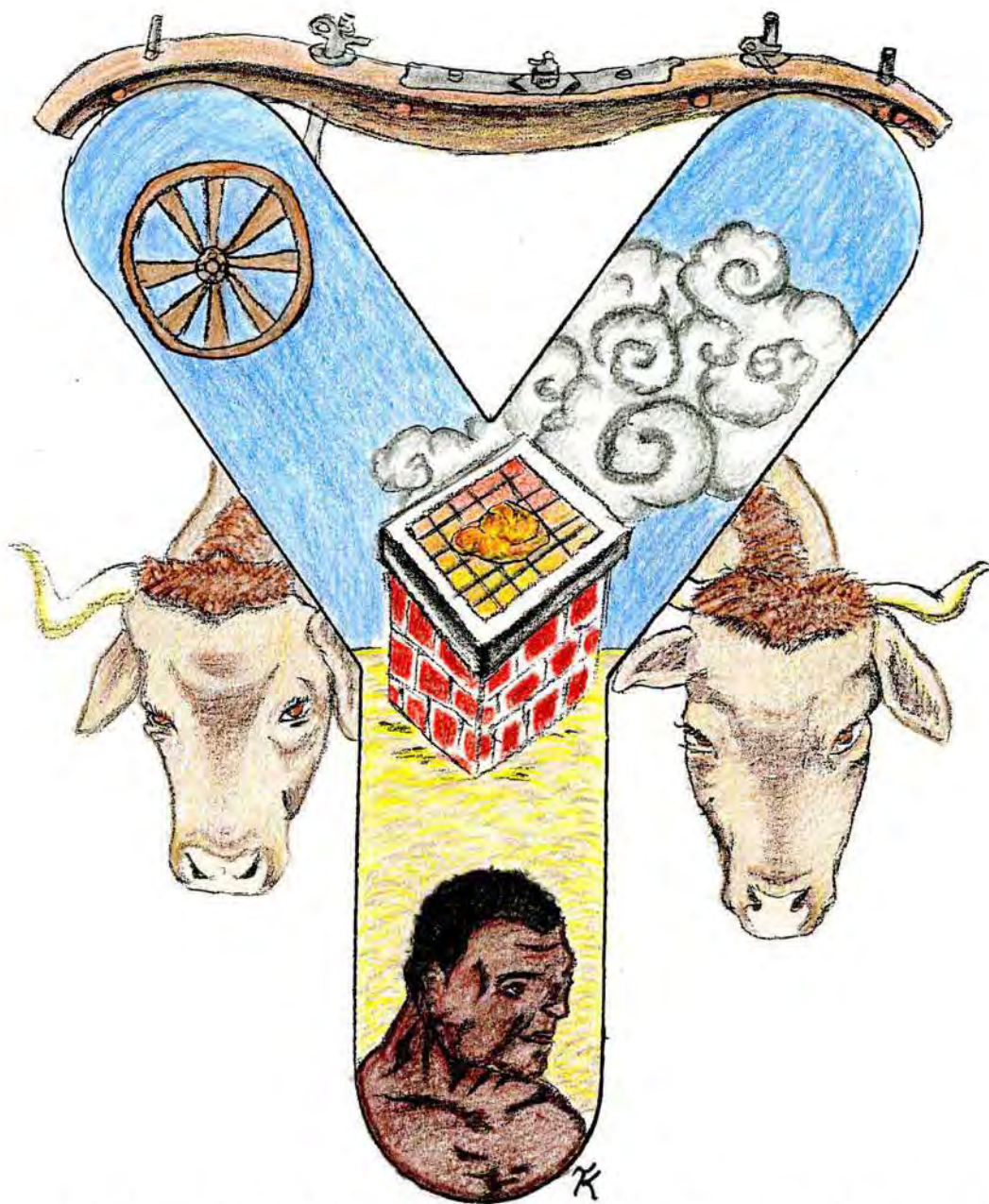
V is for Valle, Francois Valle II was one of Ste. Genevieve most important citizens. He was a merchant who sold goods from New Orleans and Europe to the people of Ste. Genevieve. He and his wife, Marie Carpenter, had fourteen children. He was also involved in lead mining, salt making, farming and grist and saw milling. Francois Valle II contributed a great deal to the development of Ste. Genevieve.



W is for Laura Ingalls Wilder. She was a popular Missouri writer. Wilder's stories centered around pioneer life with her family in the Ozarks. She is well known for her "Little House On The Prairie" books.



X is for xylophone. A xylophone is best known of all the mallet percussion instruments. It received its name from the Greek word "xylon" meaning "wood", and the word "phone" meaning "sound". The xylophone was a frequent member of early jazz bands of the 1930's and was very popular in Vaudeville Acts. Kansas City, Missouri became a haven for jazz players during the 1930's.



Y is for Hiram Young. Young was a slave in Missouri and he bought his freedom for himself and his wife. Once he was free, he started a wagon business in Independence, Missouri. He made thousands of wagons each year. After the Civil War, Young went into the ox-yoke business.



Z is for the Saint Louis Zoo. The 1904 Saint Louis World's Fair is credited for the birth of the Saint Louis Zoo. The Zoo was born ten days after the fair closed. The Saint Louis Zoo started to expand in 1921, when the bear pits were built. The bird house was built in 1930. The Zoo continues to expand with the addition of many exotic animals

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